

Officer Jamali: Watching over Duxbury youth

By Sandra Higgins
Clipper Reporter

Officer Nick Jamali was recently appointed School Resource Officer for the Duxbury Police Department. In this position, Officer Jamali patrols and around Duxbury's school district and is responsible for the safety and security for all kids attending Chandler Elementary School through Duxbury High School.

"Nick is composed and thoughtful," said Duxbury Police Chief Mathew Clancy. "It is very difficult to rattle this young man, which is good because the school resource officer is involved in emotionally charged situations with students and parents on a regular basis. Nick has the unique ability to maintain his demeanor, which is an important trait in this crucial role."

Jamali replaces Sergeant Friend Weiler, who was formally sworn in as a police sergeant on Monday evening at the selectmen's meeting after serving as Duxbury's first fulltime school resource officer for the past 16 years.

"Friend served with a great deal of distinction," Clancy said. "He was the face of the police within the Duxbury schools for a long time and his passion for the job was evident. The business of policing is not always easy and Friend handled numerous sensitive cases with compassion and grace."

"He definitely has big shoes to fill with regard to Officer Weiler, but he has done a great job acclimating to the school thus far," said Duxbury High School Principal Andrew Stephens about Jamali. "We are all very pleased with his selection to this important position in our school. He is very excited for this opportunity and has really made an effort to reach out to school staff, administrators and students."

Stephens said Jamali will need to continue to work to meet parents, teachers and students and build relationships with the many different groups that are connected to the schools. "Those relationships do not happen overnight," Stephens said, "but I am very confident that he is up to the task."

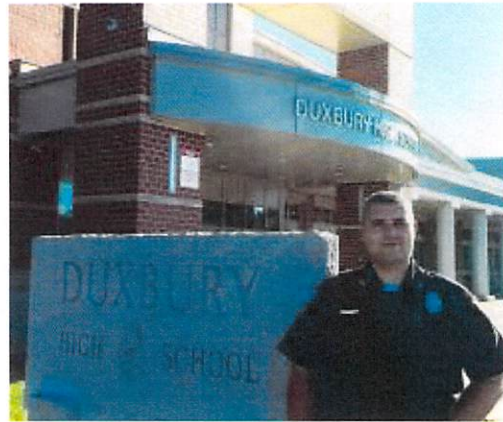
"It's an absolute privilege to be chosen for this job," said Jamali. "I already feel like I have a new second family. Everyone from Friend, who trained me, to the staff members at the schools, have been warm and welcoming. I hope to build on Friend's incredible accomplishments while bringing my expertise in cyber crime investigations to the role."

Officer Jamali's main goals are to raise knowledge of cyber safety awareness in the schools while also educating them about the growing issue of opiate use.

"Education is one of our best tools to keep our kids safe," he noted.

Clancy believes that the community will see a different approach to the position with Jamali. "Nick will carve out his own niche, develop his own way," he said. "I look forward to watching what he does with the program. I know it's going to be spectacular."

Jamali came to the Duxbury police force in 2008 from Babson College, where he was a sergeant. He beat out seven other candidates for the position, and Clancy noted that each and every



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Officer Nick Jamali is the new student resource officer for DPD. He will be active in all the schools as a monitor, role model and liaison.

one of the applicants could have been successful in the job. Officer Jamali is one of two cyber crime investigators in the department, he explained, and so brings a lot of savvy and know how when it comes to social media, technology and various phone devices, which are highly valuable skills to have in today's environment.

The school resource officer serves as a mentor, role model, educator and liaison with the school administration. In the position, Jamali will present on numerous topics throughout the year educating students about peer pressure, good decision-making, the dangers of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, bullying, internet safety, Halloween safety, Healthy Choices classes and teen dating violence.

There are more challenges facing today's youth with the rise of social media, cell phone use, new apps and other technologies, noted Chief Clancy. "These are wonderful tools, but they also create a host of problems that can rise to the level of criminality too easily," he said. "This is a tremendous challenge and we must educate our youth on how to use their devices responsibly."

The school resource officer also facilitates the Junior Police Academy and participates in the Plymouth District Attorney's summer drug education program.

Jamali has an office in the police station as well as in the Duxbury High/Middle School on the first floor and is available to students, faculty and parents in person, by phone at 781-934-5656 ext. 1184 or by email at jjamali@duxburypolice.org.